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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SAHUARO RANCH PARK HISTORIC AREA ROSE GARDEN PROJECT

Glendale, Ariz. — As songwriter Ray Evans said, “A rose must remain with the sun and the rain or its lovely promise won’t come true.” The rose and its bush also need care and attention to yield its beautiful blooms. Volunteers and rose enthusiasts can help make Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area’s rose garden more beautiful and breathtaking by participating in the Rose Garden Deadheaders’ Fall Clean Up Day to be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21 at the park, located at 9802 N. 59th Ave.

Attendees will help with weeding the gardens and doing a little rose pruning and deadheading, which is removal of spent blooms, to encourage the bush to produce more flowers. Certified rosarians will also be attending to provide information and answer questions about roses.

The Rose Garden Deadheaders are a group of volunteers that keep the rose bushes in the park’s historic area looking great throughout the year by removing the spent blooms along with weeding and pruning. Volunteers choose the best time in their schedules to help out in the garden and/or come out during scheduled workdays. Volunteers have the option of adopting a bed, but roving volunteers are welcome too. The Rose Society of Glendale provides expert advice and direction to the Deadheaders. A stocked tool shed near the garden is available to volunteers to use whenever they choose to help.

The rose garden was initially planted in 1898 by Sahuaro Ranch owner William Bartlett as a backdrop for his daughter’s wedding in April 1899. The award-winning garden continues to be a popular location for weddings year after year hosted by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society, thanks in part to dedicated volunteers who help keep it in tip-top shape.

Volunteers are always needed and many of the current volunteers come with a friend or family member. “This is a great opportunity to meet people with similar interests,” stated Joanna Brace the park’s historic programmer. “Many volunteers have remarked that they enjoy the exercise and company, others just love roses and some just want to help make one of Glendale’s parks even more beautiful.”

For more information, contact Laura Hirsch at 602-920-1697 or laurahirsch27@gmail.com or Joanna Brace at 623-930-4201 or jbrace@glendaleaz.com. Take a visual tour of the Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area at www.glendaleaz.com/SRPHA.

This program is a partnership between Glendale and the Rose Society of Glendale.

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